(b) whether it is a fact that Government are also considering to conduct the Civil Services model of examination in the case of Staff Selection Commission examinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Representation in Consultancy Committee of Planning Commission

152. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include the representatives of World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and an American Consultancy Group in various Consultative Committees of the Planning Commission mainly to provide inputs for the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the names of such Consultative Committees alongwith the names of the representatives of WB, ADB and the American Consultancy Group; and

(c) the specific reasons for associating these repesentatives in these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission had announced the formation of Consultative Groups for the limited purpose of obtaining views and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of Plan programmes and policies from non-government observers in the process

of the Mid-Term Appraisal of theTenth Five Year Plan. These Groups, amongst others, also included some individuals working with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and international consultancy firms in India. The matter was subsequently reviewed and the Consultative Groups were dissolved with effect from 1st October 2004.

Determining of Poverty Line

153. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for declaring poor in Indian Official Poverty Line is lowest after China in the world;

(b) what is the criteria for determining poverty line; and

(c) the action proposed to take care of basic needs of India's poor as is being done by China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Planning Commission is not aware of any basis by which it can be said that the criteria for declaring poor in Indian Official Poverty Line is lowest after China in the world. The poverty lines of countries cannot usually be compared since, the factors taken into account to determine the poverty line may be different for different countries.

(b) The poverty line is expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc.

The Planning Commisson uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty